

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An inverter circuit for discharge lamps for multi-lamp lighting in which the value of a negative resistance
5 characteristic of a fluorescent lamp is controlled, and an excessively set reactance is eliminated by causing a shunt transformer to have a reactance exceeding the negative resistance characteristic, whereby shunting characteristics high in performance are obtained while reducing the size of
10 the circuit. In an inverter circuit for discharge lamps for multi-lamp lighting, two coils connected to a secondary winding of a step-up transformer of the inverter circuit are arranged and magnetically coupled to each other to form a shunt transformer for shunting current such that magnetic
15 fluxes generated thereby are opposed to each other to cancel out. Discharge lamps are connected to the coils, respectively, with currents flowing therethrough being balanced with each other. Lighting of each of the discharge lamps is caused by the fact that a reactance of
20 an inductance related to balancing operation of the shunt transformer, the reactance being in an operating frequency of the inverter circuit, exceeds a negative resistance of the each of the discharge lamps.